(2) THE MADRAS BETTING TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1962 (L.A. BILL NO. 9 OF 1962).

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

'That the Madras Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill,[a] 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 9 of 1962), as passed by the Assembly, be taken into consideration '.

Sir, this is a very simple Bill. At the present moment, the Government are authorised to levy a tax ranging up to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of every sum paid into the totalizator as well as the bet collected. Government now want to increase the upper limit to 25 per cent. This is also a revenue measure and I trust the House will accept it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved—

'That the Madras Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 9 of 1962), as passsd by the Assembly, be taken into consideration '.

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a betting Bill and though I am opposed to all betting, I welcome this measure.

If betting on horses is abolished entirely, it will be for the good of middle-class people and the poor people. It may not be so in the case of the rich. Betting is an instinct and once you foster that instinct, it goes on increasing and the avidity for betting grows greater and greater even when you lose. That is because we are anxious to cover the loss.

As a matter of fact, Sir, a resolution was passed some time back, some ten years ago, I think, in the Legislative Council. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition will bear me out. In that resolution Government said that they would try to introduce legislation to abolish this altogether. Only they wanted five years' time to do that. That time is past now and I think this Government should set an example to the other Governments in this country by abolishing this betting on horses. Of course, the Hon. Minister might answer as he did in the Assembly. (Interruption) I will refer, Sir, only to the answer given by the Hon. Minister. There are two points of view about betting. One is that it will improve the breed of the horses. Sir, in view of the danger of betting, I think the horses may breed better outside than in the races. That is my honest feeling so far as betting is concerned because I am eye-witness to the havoc it creates among the poor people. This betting on horses has ruined many families (interruptions). Yes, it is still ruining many of the families. In many of the offices, on race days, the clerks will not be found there. I found in the Income-tax office after 1 o'clock, there was nobody except the officers. The Com-
5-30 p.m. missioner was there. The Assistant Commissioner was there. The Chief Inspecting Officer also was there. But I did not find the

a. Printed as Appendix III on pages 636-637

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clerks. So, I was told, 'You better go; the case is adjourned'. What is the reason, I asked. I learnt then that all the clerks had gone away after 1 o'clock, because it was a race day. It is only the smaller folk that are ruined. Even the vegetable sellers go to races and lose money. They never gain anything. That is the difficulty. If they gain anything, it is all right. But it is only the rich people that gain money. That is the curious irony of fate with the betting people. Very rich people get money. I would, therefore, strongly appeal to Government not to take two views. Let them take the only view that is possible and necessary, and, that is, abolish betting. Of course, the tax may go, but it is only a very small amount. The Government can afford to lose that amount. On the other hand, they will be conferring a real benefit upon the middle class and the lower income group people and also the poor people.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, as I said, there are really two views on the question of having races. I did not say that there were two views on betting. It is said that races help to have better breed of horses. They help in the defence of the country. That is why many countries in the world are keen on preserving this. But I have no personal views on this matter. I only said that there were two views on this question, and until racing was abolished, let us get as much money out of it as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

"That the Madras Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 9 of 1962), as passed by the Assembly, be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 2 to 4 were put and carried.

Clause 1 and the Preamble were not and carried.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I move—

"That the Madras Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 9 of 1962), as passed by the Assembly, be passed.'

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

"That the Madras Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 9 of 1962), as passed by the Assembly, be passed.'

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed.

(3) THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1962 (L.A. BILL NO. 11 OF 1962).

* THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : Sir, I move—

"That the Madras City Municipal Corporation and District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill,[a] 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 11 of 1962), as passed by the Assembly, be taken into consideration."

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 637-660.